

Tuesday - March 5

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. "Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth." Psalm 46: 1-3, 10

Tory and I met as hall-mates at Otterbein University. Our friendship grew from 2011 as college freshmen, through long distance as I went to seminary in DC, into first time motherhood as we each welcomed our babies in 2022. She is and has been, my best friend. There has never been a trial in my life when I have not looked to Tory to seek comfort, guidance and love.

In October of 2023, Tory's mom was unexpectedly diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. I guess that's how it often works, cancer greeting you unexpectedly and unwanted. Tory is a nurse at OSU. When her mom's diagnosis came I knew that Tory would not only navigate this journey as a daughter, but also as a medical professional.

The first day of Tory's mom's chemo treatment I stared at my phone, begging God to help me with something to say. Then a song came on the radio, "Quiet." We had just listened to it in GOG and the girls loved it. Its words were real and simple, with an invitation to be still and welcome God in the silence. Despite our decade long friendship, Tory and I didn't openly talk about our faith. She has supported me on my ordination journey from the beginning, but she was reserved about her own faith. So, I sent the song hoping God would break through. Hours later, Tory told me that she played the song as her mom had a severe reaction to the chemo. Tears filled the room as they endured one of the hardest moments, with God filling the silence.

Hannah VanMeter

Prayer: Holy God, thank you for breaking through to meet us wherever we are even when we least expect your presence. The peace and security you offer is something that we so earnestly need, though we may forget how to ask for it. Thank you for surrounding us with your love, through music, scripture and your beloved children. May we always be reminded of that gift. Amen.